

Message Text

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15
ACTION H-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 OMB-01 SAJ-01

IO-13 /081 W
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R 250650Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4689
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
SECDEF WASHDC
DIRNSA WASHDC
CINCEUR
CINCUSAFE
USNMR SHAPE
USDOCOLAND SOUTH
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 6528

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, MARR, PFOR, TU
SUBJ: TIMING OF CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON NEW US-TURKISH
DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT

REF: A) ANKARA 4338 (DTG 070810Z JUN 76), B) STATE 206953
(DTG 192352Z JUN 76) (NOTAL)

1. THERE IS SOME EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE CONCLUSION THAT
THERE IS A GROWING FEELING IN SOME CIRCLES HERE THAT THE
GOT SHOULD NOT PRESS THE USG TOO HARD TO GET CONGRESSIONAL
ACTION ON THE DCA PRIOR TO THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. THE
REASONING IS THAT REGARDLESS OF HOW THE ELECTIONS TURN OUT,
THE POST ELECTION SITUATION IS LIKELY TO BE MORE FAVORABLE
FOR AFFIRMATIVE CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON THE DCA. THIS VIEW
IS REINFORCED BY THE RECENT CONGRESSIONAL AID ACTION PAVING
THE WAY FOR THE RESTORED FLOW OF \$250 MILLION IN MILITARY
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ASSISTANCE CREDIT.

2. MY OWN CONVICTION, HOWEVER, CONTINUES TO BE AS STATED IN REFTTEL, NAMELY THAT WE MAY "GET AWAY" WITH DELAYING ACTION UNTIL LATE NEXT WINTER, SPRING OR SUMMER (THE MOST REALISTIC ALTERNATIVES TO ACTION NOW) BUT TO TAKE THIS ROUTE NEVERTHELESS INVOLVES RISKS TO OUR NATIONAL SECURITY WHICH IT SIMPLY IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR GOVERNMENT TO TAKE. THE RISKS DERIVE FROM THE VARIETY OF ADVESE DEVELOPMENTS (NOTED IN REFTTEL) WHICH THE PASSAGE OF TIME MAKES INCREASINGLY FEASIBLE. WE MAY END UP WITH DELAYED CONGRESSIONAL ACTION AND STILL BE SUCCESSFUL IN RUNNING THESE RISKS, BUT POSSIBLE SUCCESS IN A LOTTERY WHERE NATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS ARE INVOLVED IS NO ARGUMENT FOR SUCH A LOTTER.

3. AS WE LOOK BACK OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS, I THINK ALL OF US CAN SEE MOMENTS WHEN WE APPEARED TO BE CLOSER TO AN ACCEPTABLE CYPRUS SOLUTION THAN WE ARE NOT OR WILL BE IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. WHILE WE CANNOT BE CERTAIN THAT IN THE CYPRUS SITUATION THERE WERE, IN FACT, THOSE EARLIER OPPORTUNITIES, THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT WE NOW HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO RESTORE THE US-TURKISH SECURITY RELATIONSHIP. IF WE LET THIS SLIDE AWAY, WE MAY IN THE FUTURE SIMILARLY FIND OURSELVES LOOKING BACK AT A LOST OPPORUTUNITY WHICH MAY NOT COME AGAIN.
MACOMBER

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